

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner took the following actions:

(a) rejected claims 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,779,917 B1 to Chappuis ("Chappuis"); and

(b) indicated allowable subject matter in claims 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 32, 34, and 35.

Claims 16-35 remain pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chappuis.

M.P.E.P. § 2131 states that "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Chappuis fails to teach or even suggest, each and every element in claims 16, 19, 22, 24, 26, 29-31, and 33, whether expressly or inherently, and thus, Chappuis does not anticipate the claims.

Independent claim 16 recites, *inter alia*,

An assembly comprising an object, a support and . . . a fixing element . . . defining a pivot axis between said object and said support . . . to present alternately a first face and a second face of said support . . . said fixing element has a pivot . . . a cavity is formed on said object . . . comprising a first opening . . . and being continued by an elongate second opening extending transversely with respect to the direction of said pivot axis . . . said elongate second opening being designed to guide said pivot . . . said support also comprising retractable locking means designed to engage with matching cavities in said stable position.

Chappuis discloses

a first case 1 . . . a first display 3 . . . a second case 2 . . . a second display (not shown as located under case 2). These first and second cases are placed back-to-back . . . First case 1 includes . . . a pair of horns 16 and 17 and . . . another pair of horns 20 and 21. Second case 2 includes . . . a pair of horns 18 and 19 and . . . another pair of horns 22 and 23. Each of

these horns is provided with a hole respectively referenced 24, 25, 28, 29, 26, 27, 30 and 31. The diameter of each hole is adjusted to the diameter of bars 6 and 7. . . . Ends 11 and 10 of wristband 14 are provided with a hole referenced respectively 34 and 35. These holes 34 and 35 are arranged in alignment with the hole of horns to accommodate bars 7 and 6 which are inserted by sliding through the horns.

Chappuis, column 3, lines 31-37; column 4, lines 15-34; and FIG. 1.

On page 2 of the Office Action, first case 1 and second case 2 of Chappuis are improperly characterized as being first and second faces of wristband 14. First case 1 and second case 2 of Chappuis form the watch display--they are not faces of wristband 14. See Chappuis, column 3, lines 31-38; and FIG. 1. Also, the Office Action already characterized first case 1 and second case 2 of Chappuis as being the claimed "object," making it improper to then call those same elements faces of the claimed "support." Moreover, Chappuis clearly and explicitly discloses that wristband 14 is non-reversible. See *id.* at Abstract. Thus, contrary to the assertions made on page 2 of the Office Action, Chappuis fails to teach, or even suggest, "a support and . . . a fixing element for removably connecting said support to said object and defining a pivot axis between said object and said support, particularly in order to present alternately a first face and a second face of said support," as recited in independent claim 16. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and the timely allowance of independent claim 16 is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, holes 24, 25, 28, 29, 26, 27, 30 and 31 are improperly characterized as being the claimed "elongate second opening;" and bars 6 and 7 are improperly characterized as being the claimed "retractable locking means." As to the first improper characterization, Chappuis discloses that holes 24, 25, 28, 29, 26, 27, 30 and 31 extend parallel (not transversely) with respect to the pivot axis

between the cases (i.e., first case 1 and second case 2) and wristband 14. See Chappuis at FIG. 1. Moreover, holes 24, 25, 28, 29, 26, 27, 30 and 31 do not guide any part of wristband 14, but rather, receive bars 6 and 7. See *id.* at column 4, lines 20-22. Thus, Chappuis fails to teach or even suggest, “an elongate second opening extending transversely with respect to the direction of said pivot axis . . . said elongate second opening being designed to guide said pivot,” as recited in independent claim 16.

As for the second improper characterization, Chappuis does not teach or suggest that bars 6 and 7 are retractable. Thus, even if bars 6 and 7 of Chappuis could somehow be interpreted as showing “retractable locking means,” Chappuis would still be deficient for failing to teach or suggest, for example, matching cavities to which bars 6 and 7 are engaged (holes 24, 25, 28, 29, 26, 27, 30 and 31 of Chappuis cannot be the matching cavities since they were characterized as the elongate second opening on page 3 of the Office Action). Thus, Chappuis fails to teach, or even suggest, “said support also comprising retractable locking means designed to engage with matching cavities in said stable position,” as recited in independent claim 16. For at least these additional and independent reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and the timely allowance of independent claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-35 depend from independent claim 16, and are allowable for at least the same reasons stated above that independent claim 16 is allowable. In addition, claims 17-35 recite unique combinations that are neither taught or suggested by the cited art, and therefore each is also separately patentable.

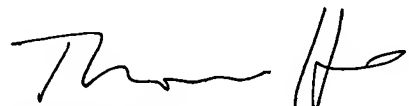
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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